Righteousness Made Ours

"Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." (Romans 4:8)

WHEN we say that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, and we, by this imputed righteousness are just before God, and not through any righteousness which inheres in us [not by any righteousness that is inherently in us], we mean nothing else than that the obedience of Christ, rendered to God the Father in our name, is so conferred upon us by God, that it is truly [made] ours. — Where it is clear that the disobedience of one man, by which we are constituted sinners, and guilty before God, through the imputation of Adam's fault, opposed to the obedience of one Christ, by which the elect are constituted just, that is, are justified before God, not as by inherent righteousness, but by imputation. *Because the act of one cannot become the act of many unless by imputation, etc*. — [Scripture declares we are] made the righteousness of God in Him: 2 Corinthians 5:21, "God made Him sin" from which it is manifest: *That Christ is our righteousness before God, not inherently, because the righteousness of one cannot pass to another but by imputation*. That we are made the righteousness of God in Him, in precisely the same way that He was made sin for us: But Christ was made sin for us, not by anything inherent or subjective, because He knew no sin; but by imputation, because God imputed to Him our sins, and made the iniquities of us all to meet upon Him [Isaiah 53:6]. Therefore we also are made righteousness, not by infusion, but by imputation. — The righteousness of Christ is rightly said to be imputed to us for righteousness; not in the sense of a righteousness being reputed [represented] ours, which was so before, but in the sense of a righteousness being *made* ours, which before was another's; and as on account of it; we are pronounced just, and accepted to eternal life." — Francis Turretin

Imputed Righteousness

"…the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6)

THIS sovereignty of God appears in transferring our sins upon Christ. … God transferred the sins of [His people] upon Christ, and inflicted on Him a punishment for them. He summed up the debts of [His people], [and] charged [those sinful debts] upon the [eternal worth and value] of Christ, imputing to Him the guilt, and inflicting upon Him the penalty. (Isaiah 53:6) 'The Lord hath laid upon Him the iniquity of us all; He made them all to meet upon His back.' 'He hath made Him to be sin for us.' (2 Corinthians 5:21). He was made so by the sovereign pleasure of God: a punishment for sin, as most understand it, which could not be righteously inflicted, had not sin been first righteously imputed, by the consent of Christ, and the order of the Judge of the world. This imputation could be the immediate act of none but God, because He was the sole Creditor. A creditor is not bound to accept of another's suretyship, but it is at his liberty whether he will or no; and when he doth accept of him, he may challenge the debt of him, as if he were the principal debtor himself. Christ made Himself sin for us by a voluntary submission; and God made Him sin for us *by a full imputation*, and treated Him penally, as He would have done those sinners in whose stead He suffered. Without this act of sovereignty in God, we had been forever punished: for if we could suppose Christ laying down His life for us without the pleasure and order of [the Father], He could not have been said to have borne our punishment. … Christ is 'delivered up by Him' in every part of that condition wherein He was and suffered; and to that end that we might become 'the righteousness of God in Him;' that we might have the righteousness of Him that was God *imputed* to us, or that *we might* have a righteousness as great, and proportioned to the righteousness of God, as God required. It was an act of divine sovereignty to account Him that was righteous a sinner in our stead; and to account us, who were sinners, righteous upon the merits of His [life and] death." — Stephen Charnock

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

January 8th, 2023

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"Fear thou not; for I AM with thee: be not dismayed; for I AM thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I WILL help thee; yea, I WILL uphold thee with the right hand of MY righteousness."

(Isaiah 41:10)

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[Beloved, does] doubt, perhaps, arises in your heart, that the satisfaction made by your Redeemer has not been sufficient for you, on account of the appalling amount of sin and iniquity you have committed. If so, my brethren, look to the last scene of your Mediator's life, and contemplate the dying thief on the cross! What a spectacle of mercy! a sinner borne by angels into paradise! God receives him in His arms, calls him His own and well-beloved child, sets a crown of glory upon his head, and, [by the merits of Him being his Surety, beholds] nothing in him but perfection and beauty, [and being made to know his Redeemer to be all his salvation] assures him of paradise for his inheritance! Is not this great and astonishing? Measure then by this man the fruit of the sacrifice of Christ; for surely His blood must be of wonderful efficacy to produce such glorious results to poor and miserable sinners! —FWK

Excerpt from (The Martyr Lamb, Or Christ) **The Great Exchange** published in 1845

Welcome

Sinners are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect assembly, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's underserved grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

Announcements

Happy Birthday!
Samantha Spring, January 9th

Sovereign Grace Conference 2023 / Pastor Fred Evans
Friday, February 24th, 7:30 PM,
Saturday, February 25th, 10:30 AM,
Sunday, February 26th, 11:00 AM

Resources

Be sure to visit our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

Grace Articles

Made Righteous

"…He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

(2nd Corinthians 5:21)

As we are made the righteousness of God in Him, so He is made sin for us. We are made the righteousness of God in Him by the *imputation* of His righteousness unto us; for our Apostle is to be believed, that righteousness is by imputation: 'God imputes righteousness,' says he [Romans 4:6]. We have no righteousness before God but by imputation; and when we are made righteous—the righteousness of God, which God ordains, approves, accepts—it is the righteousness of Christ imputed to us. And how is He made sin for us? Because our sin is imputed to Him.—Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Justification and acceptance with God is the blessing of faithful Abraham. Here is the great exchange represented to us in Scripture in these things: that all our sins are transferred upon Christ by imputation, and the righteousness of Christ transferred to us by imputation.—Then the other act of God is the imputation of the righteousness of Christ to us. It is not enough to us that our sins are all carried away into a land not inhabited; we stand in need of a righteousness whereby we may be accepted before God. He makes us to be the righteousness of God; we do not make ourselves so, but *are made so by the imputation of Christ's righteousness*. — John Owen

Justifying Righteousness

"…to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith [the object of it] *is counted for righteousness."*

(Romans 4:5-7)

By justifying righteousness, I mean that which stands in the doing and suffering of Christ when He was in the world … The righteousness of God, or a righteousness of God's completing; a righteousness of God's bestowing; righteousness that God also gives unto, and puts upon, all them that believe; a righteousness that stands in the works of Christ, and that is imputed both by the grace and justice of God … By the imputation of it to us, I mean *God's making of it ours* by an act of His grace, that we by it might be [delivered] from the curse of the law … Wherefore the righteousness, that justifieth a sinner, it is personally and inherently the righteousness of that person only, who by works and acts of obedience did complete it, even the obedience of *one*, one man, Jesus Christ; and so [made] ours only by imputation." — John Bunyan